

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An information browse supporting method comprising:
  - a first search condition information setting step of setting a condition, inputted by any one of a plurality of users,
    - 5 for searching for information suited to this user, as first search condition information on this user;
    - a second search condition information setting step of setting a condition, inputted by any one of the plurality of users in a way that specifies other user, for searching
      - 10 information suited to this other user, as second search condition information on this other user;
      - an information searching step of searching, from within browsing target information containing a plurality of information elements, for an information element with respect
        - 15 to a certain user in accordance with the first search condition information set in said first search condition information setting step and the second search condition information set in said second search condition information setting step; and
        - an information presenting step of presenting to a certain
          - 20 user a piece of information corresponding to a searched result with respect to a certain user in said information searching step.
  2. An information browse supporting method according to
    - 25 claim 1, wherein said second search condition information setting step involves setting the information inputted in such a form that any one of the plurality of users specifies other

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user to establish a mapping to setting user information indicating the user who inputted the information as the second search condition information on the other user, and

5 said information presenting step involves presenting to  
a user pieces of information on the respective information  
elements searched with respect to this user, and presenting a  
piece of information indicating a setting user set as one  
element of mapping by way of the second search condition  
information with respect to the respective information elements  
10 searched based on the second search condition information.

3. An information browse supporting method according to  
claim 1 or 2, further comprising:

15 a second information searching step of searching, based  
on the second search condition information set by a certain user  
with respect to other user in said second search condition  
information setting step, for an information element suited to  
this other user from the browsing target information, and  
checking whether or not the thus searched information element  
20 is searched by the first search condition information set in  
said first search condition information setting step with  
respect to the other user; and

25 a second information presenting step of presenting to a  
certain user a piece of information corresponding to a searched  
result and a checked result with respect to a certain user in  
aid second information searching step.

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4. An information browse supporting method according to  
claim 3, wherein the first search condition information  
contains one or more pieces of information consisting of a  
keyword and a confidential flag for indicating whether or not  
5 a permission of using this keyword is given to other user, and

      said second information searching step involves  
      performing the check about the searched information element by  
      use of only the keyword having such a relationship that the  
      confidential flag contained in the first search condition  
10 information set in said first search condition information  
      setting step with respect to other user indicates the permission  
      of user.

5. An information browse supporting method according to  
15 any one of claims 1 through 4, wherein said second search  
      condition information setting step involves generating the  
      second search condition information by analyzing natural  
      language information inputted in such a way that any one of the  
      plurality of users specifies other user.

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6. An information browse supporting method comprising:  
      a first search condition information setting step of  
      making a server set inputted by a user as a search condition  
      corresponding to this user;

25      a second search condition information setting step of  
      making said server set information by a user as a search  
      condition corresponding to a user other than this user; and

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a step of receiving from said server a result of searching based on the conditions set corresponding to the users in said first and second search condition information setting steps.

5        7. A program causing a computer to execute a process, said process comprising:

      a first search condition information setting step of setting a condition, inputted by any one of a plurality of users, for searching for information suited to this user, as first 10 search condition information on this user;

      a second search condition information setting step of setting a condition, inputted by any one of the plurality of users in a way that specifies other user, for searching information suited to this other user, as second search 15 condition information on this other user on this other user;

      an information searching step of searching, from within browsing target information containing a plurality of information elements, for an information element with respect to a certain user in accordance with the first search condition 20 information set in said first search condition information setting step and the second search condition information set in said second search condition information setting step; and

      an information presenting step of presenting to a certain user a piece of information corresponding to a searched result 25 with respect to a certain user in said information searching step.

8. An information browse supporting system comprising:

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a first search condition information storing unit of storing information, inputted by any one of a plurality of users, for searching for information suited to this user, as first search condition information on this user;

5 a second search condition information storing unit of storing information, inputted by any one of the plurality of users in a way that specifies other user, for searching information suited to this other user, as second search condition information on this other user on this other user;

10 an information searching unit of searching, from within browsing target information containing a plurality of information elements, for an information element with respect to a certain user in accordance with the first search condition information stored in said first search condition information 15 storing unit and the second search condition information stored in said second search condition information storing unit; and

15 an information-presenting unit of presenting to a certain user a piece of information corresponding to a searched result with respect to a certain user by said information-searching 20 unit.

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